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# Maine Fire Marshal News, October 2008

Maine Office of State Fire Marshal

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PREVENTION \* LAW ENFORCEMENT \* RESEARCH

# Maine Fire Marshal News

Maine State Fire Marshal's Office • Fire Research

October 2008

Maine Department of Public Safety

<http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/index.htm>

Fall 2008 Vol. 1, Issue No. 11

## WELCOME!

Welcome to another edition of the Maine Fire Marshal News. As always we appreciate your taking time to read the newsletter and forwarding it on to others. This edition will focus on the *ICC vote on fire sprinklers, fire/flame related injuries, a national strategy for fire prevention, and feature a letter from Chief Mike Thurlow of Scarborough* in addition to “*Maine Firewatch*” and other information. As always, we encourage all readers to contribute an article in a future edition.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



Since our next newsletter will not be issued until January, I'd like to take this time to discuss holiday fire safety.

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400

Americans and injure another 1600 or more. The property damage associated with these fires

is estimated to be \$990 million. So here are some tips to share with friends and loved ones.

During the holiday season many of us will be seeking out our various ornaments, lighting, and other Thanksgiving and Christmas related decorations. This is the perfect time to pause and examine holiday lighting items for frayed wires, bare spots, and gaps in insulation as well as the infamous cracked sockets **BEFORE** plugging them in. With Christmas tree lights it is important not to link more than three strings together unless manufacturer's directions indicate otherwise. As is the case all year, be sure not to overload electrical outlets.

If you'll be purchasing new tree lights, look for the LED (light emitting diodes) lights. Not only are they safer but also they use up to 80% less energy than traditional lights. For those of you lighting up the winter nights outdoors, if you use extension cords and other equipment make sure it is designated for outdoor use.

Candles are another cause for concern at this time. People will use candles during Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In Maine alone, candles were found to be the heat source in 98 home fires occurring between 2000 and 2007 and caused an estimated \$8 million in property losses. In 2000 an unattended candle fire claimed the lives of two Maine residents. So, avoid using lit candles but if you must, make sure they are in a solid holder and in an area where they can't be easily knocked over by pets

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or reached by children. Never leave a candle burning when you leave your home.

Regarding decorations in general, use non-flammable items if possible or decorations that have been treated with a flame retardant. They are available. Place all decorations away from sources of heat and do not use your fireplace to throw away used wrapping paper.

As for Christmas trees, make an effort to select a freshly cut tree. Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. As is the case with decorations, keep your tree away from heat sources that will dry them out quicker or start a fire and remember to keep your tree stand filled with water at all times. Avoid putting your tree up too early and taking it down late. In fact, it is recommended that trees be kept no longer than two weeks.

Finally, always have working smoke and CO alarms in your home all year. They are especially important during the holiday season when you might have friends and family staying with you who are not familiar with your home. The extra time the smoke alarm provides you and your guests to escape could make a big difference.

I wish all Maine citizens and our visitors a safe holiday season. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John C. Dean  
Fire Marshal



## **ICC PASSES RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER RESOLUTION**

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst & Eric J. Ellis, Fire Protection Engineer

The International Code Council met in Minneapolis, Minnesota in September and voted to make fire sprinklers mandatory in new one & two family dwellings in the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code. It mandates fire sprinkler coverage in new homes starting January 1st 2011.

The vote came with the support of 73 percent of the voting members in attendance at the final action hearing—easily surpassing the two-thirds required for passage. Ronny Coleman, president of the IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition, which led the campaign for the resolution to be adopted, called it a "historic moment" in residential fire safety.

"Our team worked hard to rally support throughout the United States for a residential fire sprinkler requirement, but our supporters deserve the recognition for showing up en masse in Minneapolis," Coleman said. "They know from experience that sprinklers are the answer to the nation's fire problem."

Proponents had previously come up short in attempts to have a sprinkler resolution passed. At a hearing last year in Rochester, N.Y., a majority of attendees — 56 percent — voted in favor, falling less than 100 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed.

The IRC is the model code governing residential construction in 46 states plus the District of Columbia, but what does this mean for Maine? Maine's legislature passed "*An Act to Establish a Uniform Building and Energy Code*" during the second session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> legislature. Section 21 (1) of the act requires that "The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted..." pursuant to the legislation "must be composed of the substance of..." the 2009 edition(s) of the International Building Code; The International Existing Building Code; the International Residential Code in addition to

other requirements “with administrative and other minor changes to customize the codes for Maine.” The real battle over sprinklers in new one and two family dwellings therefore will now move to the state level where in Maine, the soon to be created Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, will take up the issue.

The ICC vote follows the lead of the National Fire Protection Association’s 101 *Life Safety Code*, 2006 edition that also requires fire sprinkler systems in all new homes. The Maine Fire Marshal’s Office adopted this edition of the *Life Safety Code* excluding the section because we don’t inspect new homes. The ICC vote does reflect a growing trend to provide fire sprinkler coverage in new 1 & 2 family dwellings. An estimated 80% of fire fatalities occur in this type of dwelling though not all of these are new structures.

As public education and awareness grows, the acceptance of home fire sprinkler systems will continue to grow. What had to happen first was to have the building code include the fire sprinkler requirement for new homes. With that in place, expect to see an expansion of home fire sprinkler systems.

## **NEW VISION FOR FIRE PREVENTION DESCRIBED AT IAFC FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

By Jamie Thompson, FireRescue1 Editor

**DENVER - August 2008 -The Federal Government needs to take a more active role in supporting fire prevention efforts in the United States, a session at FRI on Friday was told.**

**"We need to have more involvement at the federal level," said Ozzie Mirkhah, a fire protection engineer at the Las Vegas Fire Department. " We need to have funding to implement some of the changes that we need desperately right now."**



Photo Jamie Thompson

(From left) Richard Taylor, Ozzie Mirkhah and Jim Crawford discuss Vision 20/20 at FRI.

**Mirkhah was among the panel members discussing the latest developments of Vision 20/20, a DHS-funded project to develop a comprehensive national strategy for fire prevention.**

**Funding is now being actively solicited for the continuation of the program as a national planning platform to allow relevant partners to share ideas and best practices with each other.**

**The session was told the Vision 20/20 plan should be released later this month but the project has already identified five key strategies to improve fire prevention:**

- **Increase advocacy for fire prevention**  
Portraying the nature and scope of the fire problem in the United States, and taking the message to decision makers.
- **Conduct a national fire safety education/social marketing campaign**  
Having prevention campaigns within one "banner," which will capture the attention of the general public and enhance fire prevention campaigns.
- **Raise the importance of fire prevention within the fire service**  
Embedding its importance within the service, and increasing the emphasis placed on it.
- **Promote technology to enhance fire and life safety**  
Establishing measurement criteria to evaluate



*New Vision for Fire Prevention cont'd from page 3*

new technologies that benefit prevention efforts, advocating new technology development, and more strongly supporting existing technologies such as residential sprinklers and smoke alarms.

- **Refine and improve the application of codes and standards that enhance public and firefighter safety and preserve community assets**

Developing a collaborative environment where the fire service can maximize its impact in the codes and standards development arena.

**Richard Taylor, research and planning analyst at the state fire marshal's office in Maine, told the session it is clear the United States needs to do more in the area of fire prevention. "Some countries are taking a new direction and drastically reducing their fire losses," he said. "It's preventable and that's what Vision 20/20 is essentially programmed to pursue. We can do better." (article provided Courtesy of FireRescue1.com)**



**Note:** For more information on the Vision 20/20 National Strategy for Fire Prevention effort go to their web page at: <http://www.strategicfire.org/> The web page is a great place to start when conceptualizing a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant application for your locality or for planning fire prevention and safety programming in general.

## **The State of Maine's Fire Service**

In the April issue of the Fire Marshal's Newsletter, Chief William St. Michel of the Durham Fire Department submitted the third article on the state of Maine's fire service. The article received positive remarks and the idea of having such an article in the newsletter has also been encouraged.

Chief B. Michael Thurlow of the Scarborough Fire Department contributed the following article, the fourth in this series. Take a moment to read what the Chief has to say and don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to provide your own perspective. Do you agree

**with Chief Thurlow? Or are you seeing the fire service in a different light?**

**Chief Thurlow responded to the following question:**

*In terms of suppression, public education, public awareness, intervention, code enforcement activities, and EMS services where do you think the fire service should be now and where do you think it should be in the future? Why do you believe this and what obstacles do we face?*

**Here's Chief Thurlow's response:**

When Richard asked me to write this month's article I was a little hesitant because this state, and the fire departments within it, are so diverse and different that any one Chief's answer to the questions may not ring true state-wide. That being said I do believe that there are more similarities in our departments and our missions than differences so I agreed to write it but I would like to offer a challenge to my colleagues from across the state. There have been a couple of articles written from Southern Maine Chiefs of relatively large combination departments already. I know Richard and the readers of this excellent newsletter that he edits would prefer to hear from a more diverse cross section of Chiefs from other areas of the state. Drop him a note and offer to participate by writing future articles so we hear from a broad sampling of departments large and small from all corners of our state.

Suppression used to be the bread and butter of our operations. When I first joined the fire service in the mid 70's and throughout the 1980's we responded to a significantly higher percentage of structure fires on average than we do today. That is a good thing and it is widely credited in part to the public awareness and public education the fire service has undertaken over the past two decades in our schools and throughout our communities. But we need to remember that code adoption and enforcement has also played a significant role by requiring smoke detectors, and eliminating balloon construction with better methods, and

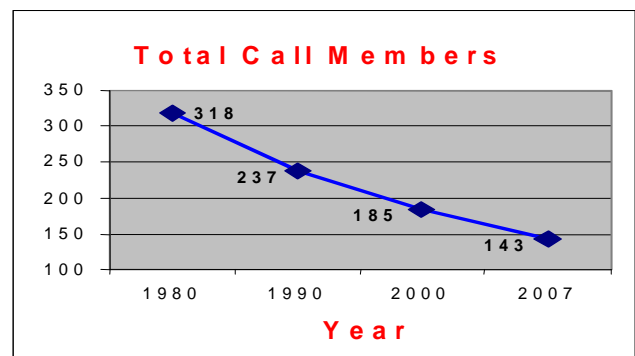
construction materials. One of the challenges we face in the fire service is replacing that experience as our older members retire taking with them their real life structure fire suppression expertise. Even though we are all training more than ever before, we are doing so based on an ever wider mission which involves things like Haz Mat, NIMS, ICS, WMD, and lest we forget EMS. Hands on fire suppression training at the very basic level seems to be harder and harder to get in beside all the other state and federal mandates we are required to comply with each year.

Most fire departments are currently providing some level of EMS service ranging from basic first response to full service ALS transport services with seasoned paramedics. EMS in Maine has matured dramatically since those early days of my career when the first paramedics were graduating and starting to practice. Now an advanced EMS license is a prerequisite to getting hired in most career or combination departments. Why is that? The answer is pretty simple, it is driven by demand. When I started EMS represented a fraction of our calls for service. Today it is closer to 70% and as the baby boomer generation continues to mature, that percentage will continue to increase. Some departments have been slow to recognize or accept this evolutionary process, but it is here to stay and it offers opportunities. Busy EMS transport services generate a significant amount of revenue to help offset the costs of personnel and equipment. In these days of tough budgets any additional revenues that a department can bring in will help the bottom line.

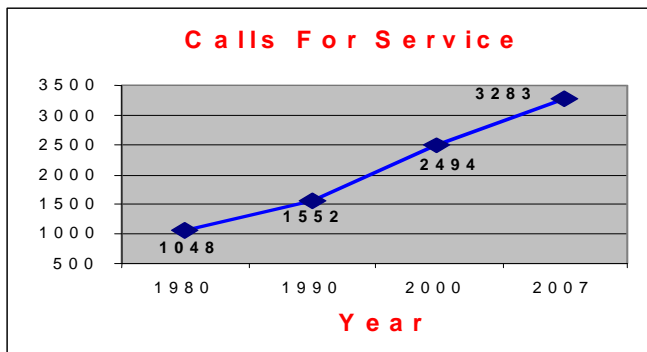
We need to look at the obstacles we face in order to understand where we need to be as a fire service in the future. Funding certainly tops the list as it always does. Many communities are struggling as is the economy in general. For generations the fire service has been asked to do more with less and somehow we always find a way to do so. We need to be more proactive in looking for additional resources be it local

appropriation, rescue revenues, fees for service, or grant opportunities. As much as many of us hate to do it, we also need to participate in the political process by educating our local selectmen, councilors, town managers, and state and federal legislators as to our needs to meet the mission our citizens expect and deserve. As Fire Chiefs we are all busy but we need to take the time to speak with a united voice and develop first name relationships with our elected leaders. It has and will continue to pay huge dividends. Remember in most communities the Fire Chief is the most respected and trusted member of the community. Use that to your advantage.

Next to funding, the second biggest obstacle or challenge is clearly manpower. One of the statistics I used in a comprehensive staffing plan that I developed for my community earlier this year included the charts below. They graphically illustrate that from 1980-2007 our call members dropped by over 50% of their prior strength while our calls for service increased over 300% during that same period. That certainly isn't a good combination and I'm sure our experience isn't that much different than most. Many departments need to routinely dispatch more apparatus than is required, often from mutual aid communities, just to get enough manpower on scene to get the job done. Recruitment and retention needs to continue to be a priority for all departments.



So where should the fire service be in the future? In terms of suppression one of the most productive things we can do is to continue to educate the public, our elected officials, and the



residential home builders, about the benefits of home fire sprinklers. The national codes have finally recognized this and we are on the cusp of a tide of change that will pay dividends for generations to come, but it takes the leadership of the State Fire Marshal's office and the push of local Fire Chiefs to adopt codes and create local ordinances.

Another key is intervention. We can protect our homes with smoke detectors and sprinklers but if we don't intervene with juvenile fire setters, we will continue to suffer tragic structure fires and loss of lives. This is a huge issue nationwide which affects every community if we want to be honest and look hard enough. York, Cumberland, and Androscoggin counties have had very active collaboratives for some time now and with the some recent grant funding I am pleased to see the interest in juvenile fire setter intervention is catching on state-wide. This is something we need to continue and will ultimately be a program that we can all be very proud of.

Finally in terms of EMS I think it will be difficult for a fire department not to be heavily involved in EMS. As our communities age our citizens will demand the service and there are more challenges in EMS than will fit in this article. Issues like surge capacity, adequate funding of the regional EMS offices, and increasing the number of advanced licensed EMS providers will all need our careful attention as we look toward the future.

Fire suppression, public education, public awareness, intervention, code enforcement activities, and EMS are all critical components of a progressive fire department. Most of us are doing a good job today but with shrinking manpower and budgets there are many obstacles and challenges in our future. If you're not currently an active member of your county chief's organization or the Maine Fire Chiefs I urge you to get involved. We are all dealing with the same issues and together with a unified voice it will be easier to solve them.

## **AFG 2008 FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS**

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

The grant application period for the 2008 AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Grants is this fall. In 2006 & 2007 only two grants were awarded to Maine fire service organizations. In 2005 seven grants were awarded. I encourage Maine fire departments to monitor the DHS web site for the announcement and apply. Here are a few ideas that may help you develop and write a grant.

You essentially want to develop a narrative around your communities unique fire burden. Break down you analysis using a simple model employed by many organizations.

Go back into your data as far as you can (preferably 10 years) and simply count the number of fires, fire fatalities and injuries, and the total dollar loss. Break this down further into the types of fire incidents you're seeing and the occupancies involved. If you see a number of fatalities or injuries try to discern a pattern or trend in terms of age, gender, and again type of fire incident. Essentially it's like being a reporter in that your looking for the "who, what, when, where and how" of fire in your community.

Remember, though your count in any of these loss measures may not be as high as other towns with more people, it is often the rate of incidents that is more telling than actual counts.

Try to find out what other communities with a similar population are seeing in terms of each loss measure. You may find you're fire experience is worse, comparatively speaking, than you thought.

Even if you discover that your fire experience has not been severe, you can also look to see what your communities status is in terms of having mitigation systems such as smoke alarms, people/families who have planned and practiced an escape strategy, etc. You may wish to conduct a survey to make such a determination and seek assistance to make sure you can keep any future fire from becoming a catastrophe.

Finally, look to the Vision 20/20 National Strategy for Fire Prevention and the Global Concepts in Fire Prevention (parts 1 & 2) as well as what others are doing for some ideas. To compare your community with others, use the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office Annual Report to give you an idea of the fire experience in various towns around Maine. Good luck to you who try. Go to the following urls for information on Vision 20/20 and the Global Concepts papers in addition to the Fire Marshal's Annual Reports.

<http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/ResourceLinks.htm>  
<http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/research/reports.html>

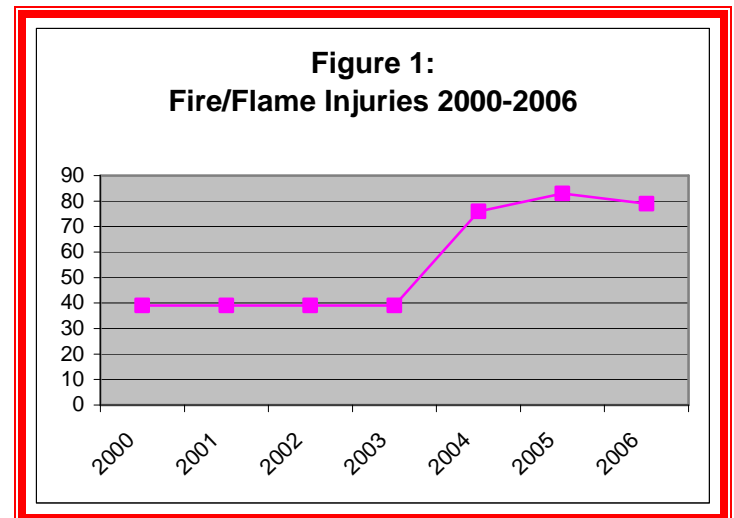
## **FIRE/FLAME RELATED INJURY IN MAINE**

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

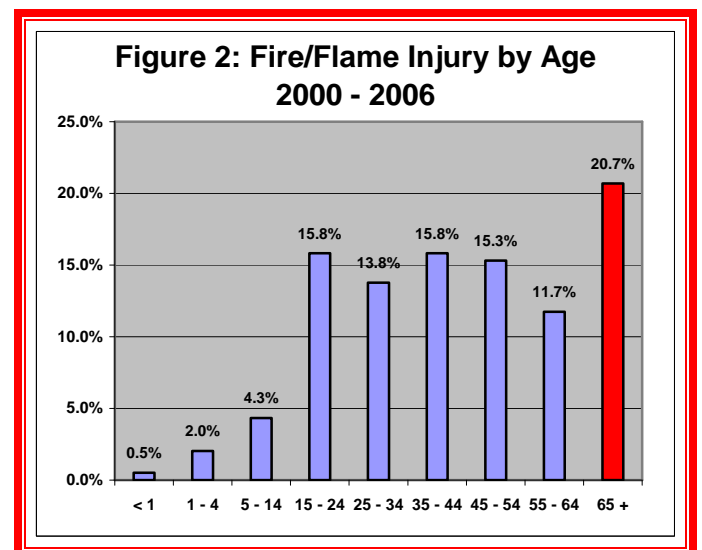
We often look at fire fatalities more than fire injuries since they garner more public attention. But fire/flame related injury is worth watching because it does have a price both in terms of suffering and dollar costs for medical treatment. The following data was provided to the Fire Marshal's Office courtesy of Maine's Center For Disease Control.

I put together the following graph (Figure 1) to provide you with a picture of fire/flame related injuries in Maine since we started

receiving this data in 2005. Because the 2000 – 03 numbers were combined I divided the total number of reports by four to get an average for the following trend line of injuries from 2000 through 2006. These are injuries in which an individual was admitted to the hospital for treatment of a fire/flame related injury then discharged. The graph suggests that we're improving our data collection methods or we saw a significant rise in injuries in 2004.



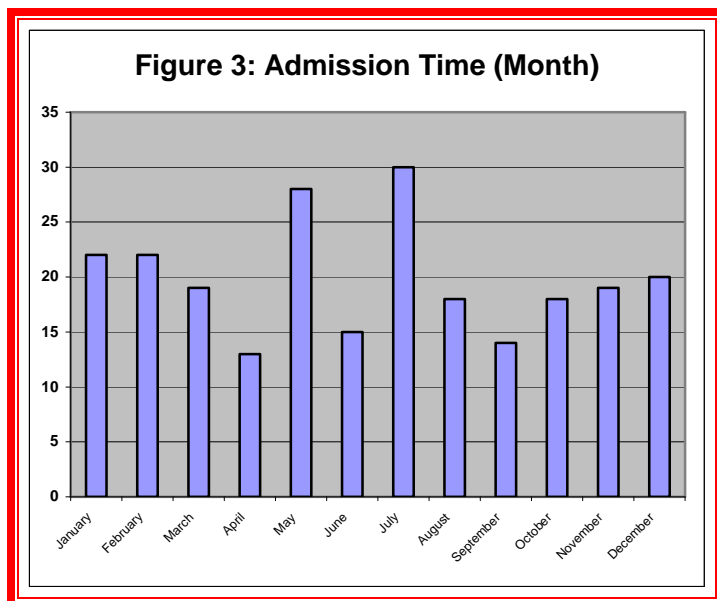
A more interesting way to look at injuries, to see who is might be experiencing the more severe burden to break it down by age and gender. Figure 2 below provides us with the distribution, by percentage, of these incidents by age for the years 2000 – 2006.





Older adults, 65 years and older experience the most severe fire/flame injury burden and are the fastest growing age group in Maine. However, Mainer's ages 15 to 44 comprise an even larger proportion of injuries.

In terms of gender, males make up 63 to 67 percent of fire/flame injuries. This distribution by gender is similar to that we see with fire fatalities. In terms of time of admission by month, the following graph (Figure 3) provides us with a graphic distribution different from what we see with fire fatalities.

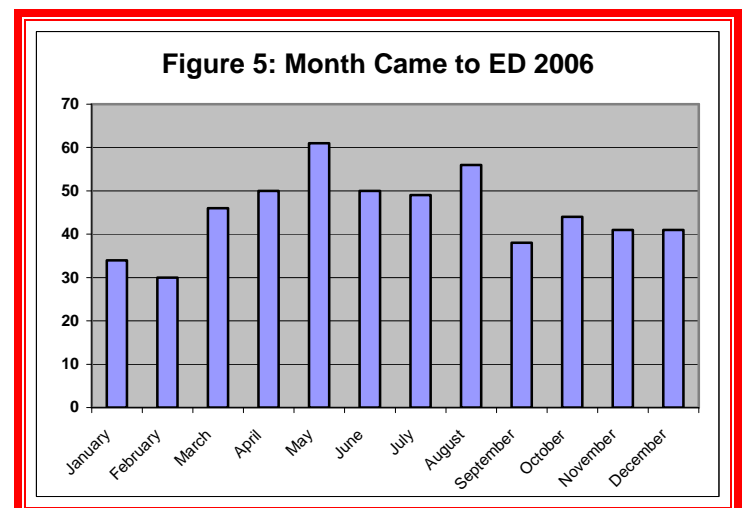
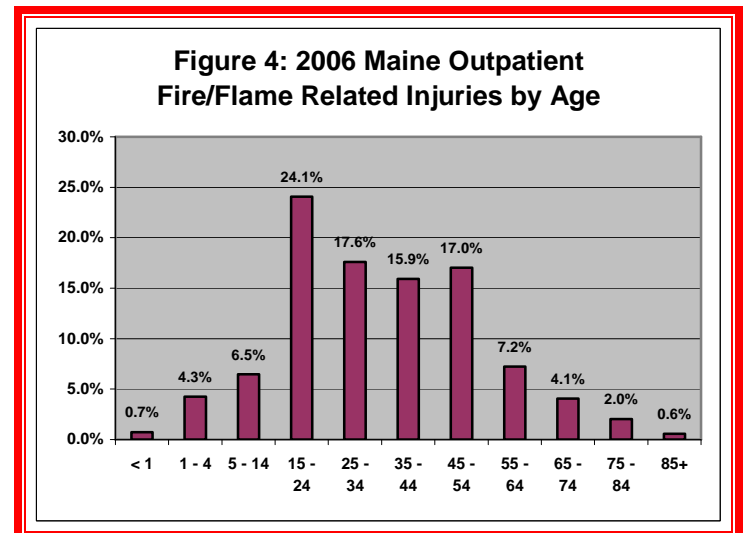


The data shows May and July being the leading months for admission. This might suggest that the cause of such injuries might be related to outdoor events. When we look at the First Cause Listed data this hypothesis can't be verified. Though 33% of fire/flame injuries are cited as being due to the ignition of highly inflammable material this only means the ignition of clothing coming in contact with petrol, gas, kerosene, fat or another substance *that might be* used to burn brush or used to power outdoor equipment as well as indoor applications. It should be noted however that when we tally the percentage of causes due to a "Conflagration in a Private Dwelling," "Accident Caused by Controlled Fire in a Private Dwelling," or "...Ignition of clothing...in a

private dwelling" and "burning bed clothes" we see that 29% of fire/flame related injuries appear to occur in the home.

In addition to people being admitted to the hospital, treated and discharged there are even a larger number of people that receive outpatient treatment for fire/flame related injuries. This year, the Fire Marshal's Office began to receive this data which also should be taken seriously given the cost of medical care for those less severe injuries where an individual is not admitted, but receives medical attention and is then released home under his/her own care.

In 2006, Maine's CDC tabulated 539 fire/flame related outpatient visits. In terms of age distribution Figure 4 indicates this is a late teenage to middle age group issue.



The time in which people came in for treatment is somewhat evenly distributed with spikes, again, in the summer months (see Figure 5). Though “Accident caused by unspecified fire” was the leading first listed cause, “Ignition of highly inflammable material” comprised 17%; a significant amount and those that might be associated with home fires comprised 25%.

The Fire Marshal’s Office will continue to collect data from Maine’s CDC and seek to answer questions about what exactly is happening in the incidents of fire/flame related injuries for both those admitted to the hospital and for those treated and released. We’ll also be seeking to obtain a cost estimate for these events. Ultimately, we’ll consider strategies to reduce the frequency of fire/flame related injuries.

## **MAINE FIREWATCH**

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst



The fire above (September) demolished the Milo Flower Shop, the former movie theater, the Spot Game Room, Milo True Value Hardware store, Hobnobbers Pub, and apartments above the businesses in addition to damaging the Milo House of Pizza. The fire was ruled arson by the State Fire Marshal’s Office. Though the dollar loss to the community was significant, no lives were lost.

A SAD 17 school bus pulled up to drop off students at the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School when the bus driver smelled smoke. The bus driver managed to get herself and the

students out shortly before the bus went up in flames. (see photo below)



A family of four lost their home to a fire in Hartland. State Fire Marshal’s Office Investigators believe the fire was not suspicious in nature.

Fire fighters from Hartland, Pittsfield, Canaan and St. Albans fought the fire.



A home in Minot (below) burned down due to a suspected cooking mishap in the middle of the afternoon.

Fortunately there were no injuries. The owners moved

into the house only a few days before the fire.



<http://www.smokefreeforme.org/>

## MEFIRS – Maine Fire Incident Reporting System

	Current Statistics 2008 (10/10/2008)	Totals for 2007
Total Incidents Reported:	20,094	84,106
Fires:	1,398	5,601
EMS:	11,836	51,843
All others:	6,860	26,662
Fire Departments Reporting	116	200
Total Fire Dollar Loss	\$16,191,708	\$30,753,035
Civilian Fire Related Injuries	22	60
Fire Service Fire Related Injuries	14	45
Civilian Fire Related Deaths	10	12
Fire Service Fire Related Deaths	0	2

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### MEFIRS:

Though fuel prices have dropped now members of the fire service know that a lot of people have already installed alternative heating devices. With appropriate planning, installation, maintenance and operation these devices serve a useful purpose. However, increases in the use of alternative heating sources have been correlated with a rise in heating related fires. That correlation was possible due to data available through the NFIRS system. Take your time this fall and winter to assess carefully what has happened when you respond to a fire. By completing all the applicable modules thoroughly, you'll be providing a future generation of fire service personnel with historical data critical to all aspects of fire service planning and programming. With good data we build the sense of value the public has in the work we do.

Under 25 M.R.S.A § 2395 “The municipal fire chief shall submit to the State Fire Marshal an incident report for each response made, regardless of whether an actual fire occurred. The report must be submitted in a manner consistent with a national fire incident reporting system.” For those of you who are not yet reporting we'd suggest you go to the following url to learn more about the MEFIRS system. <http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/mefirs/index.html>

### Some FAQs:

1. **What would you code a hot tub fire in the back yard? The tub has a gazebo around it, which did not burn. Only the tub burned.**

Answer: If the gazebo was NOT involved, the proper code for the Incident Type would be 162 (Outside Equipment Fire).

2. **What would the incident type be where an occupant was using the self-cleaning function of their oven that caused only a small fire in the oven? There was only smoke in the home when the Fire Department arrived.**

Answer: This incident should be coded 113 (cooking fire involving the contents of a cooking vessel without extension beyond the vessel).

3. **If a department responds to a mutual aid structure fire, what is the correct code to use?**

Answer: If the department responded to the incident and assisted in extinguishment of the structure fire, a code 111 is appropriate. You would then select “Mutual Aid Given” and enter their department information as required. If the department only Moved-Up or provided station coverage, then you would code your incident as 571 (Cover assignment, assist other agency such as standby at the fire station or move-up).

*“Fight Fire with Facts”*

## This Month in Fire History

Forest fire kills 1,152 around Peshtigo (WI), 1871  
Great Chicago Fire kills 250, loss worth \$2,568 million (2003 dollars), Chicago (IL), 1871  
Forest fire kills 559, Cloquet (MN), 1918  
US Postal Service HQ fire, loss worth \$48 million (2003 dollars), Washington (DC), 1984  
Alexander Hamilton home hotel fire kills 15, Paterson (NJ), 1984  
Oakland fire storm kills 25, loss worth \$2,024 million (2003 dollars), Oakland (CA), 1991  
Care-of-aged facility fire kills 28, Hof, Germany, 1947  
Phillips Petroleum plant fire, loss worth \$1,113 million (2003 dollars), Pasadena (TX), 1989  
"Old" wildland fire loss worth \$975 million (2003 dollars), San Bernadino (CA), 2003  
St. John's Parochial School fire kills 22, Peabody (MA), 1915  
Federal Fire Prevention & Control Act of 1974 creates US Fire Administration, 1974

When you look at this sample of October fires, is it any wonder we have Fire Prevention Week in October?

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



*The Maine Fire Chiefs Association and the Office of the Maine State Fire Marshal would like to invite you to a special day and a half informational and training conference on fire protection presented by Fire Team USA this **November 12 – 13**. The conference will explore current public policy, how community planning affects fire protection, fire prevention efforts underway, and how fire sprinkler legislation can assist in the future quality of life in our communities.*

*Who is invited? Fire Chiefs, Mayors, Alderman, Building Officials, Water Purveyors, Builders and Developers, Fire Inspectors, Commissioners, Council Members, Planning Commission Chairs or members, Insurance Agents, and other interested parties.*

*The conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton, 308 Godfrey Blvd., Bangor, Maine.*

*For more information and registration materials go to the url below or call 615-533-0305. Don't miss this great opportunity!*

<http://www.fireteamusa.com/>

## ERRATA

In the July edition of the *Maine Fire Marshal News* we displayed a graph indicating that the total number of "Heating Related Fires" in Maine from 2000 to 2007 was 335. One person called me to point out this error. The number of heating related residential structure fires for the entire year of 2007 alone was 645. The total number of heating related residential structure fires between 2000 and the end of 2007 was 3,497! Thank you for pointing this mistake out to us.



The *Maine Fire Marshal News* is an electronic publication of the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office.

Editors: Richard E. Taylor & Lori L. Gunn

To submit articles for publication contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (207) 626-3870 and ask to speak with the editors. You may also e-mail an article or comment to [Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov](mailto:Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov)

All articles are subject to an editorial staff review prior to inclusion. For a copy of submission requirements contact the editorial staff.

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